



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8
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POLREP #1 **OIL POLLUTION REPORT**

I. BACKGROUND

Date:	September 13, 2001
Subject:	Rozel Point Tanks, Box Elder County, UT
POLREP No.:	POLREP 1
OSC Name:	Joyce Ackerman
Agency:	EPA
Unit:	Region VIII
	Emergency Response Program
	999 18th Street, Suite 300
	Denver, Colorado 80202
	(303) 312-6822
Party Conducting the Action:	EPA
Federal Project # (FPN):	A01039
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
Date Current Action Started:	9-7-01

II. SITUATION

Date of Original	
Notification:	9-6-01
Material Involved:	Crude oil
Quantity Discharged:	Unknown, estimated at 500 gallons
Substantial Threat:	None
Resource Affected:	Great Salt Lake
Source Identification:	Leaking aboveground tanks
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION



A. Incident Category

Section 311(c) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321(c) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

B. Site Description

There is an oil field on the north side of the Great Salt Lake in an area known as Rozel Point. This area is west of the Promontory mountains, and approximately 15 miles southwest of the Golden Spike Historic Site. There are natural seeps of an asphaltic oil, and entrepreneurs have attempted to develop this oil field for several decades. The oil field has since been abandoned. A number of oil wells were abandoned without proper plugging and abandonment procedures, and EPA conducted a removal action on these leaking wells in 1996. Two storage tanks, which were used to store the crude oil, are located on the shore of the Great Salt Lake. A person touring the historic sites in the area noticed on September 4, 2001 that one of the tanks was leaking, and contacted the Utah State Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ). The heavy oil was slowly flowing toward the Great Salt Lake. A local asphalt firm unrelated to the oil field was working in the area and used its backhoe to push oil and underlying soils away from the lake as a temporary measure.

UDEQ notified EPA on September 6, 2001, stating that no responsible parties or agencies had been located with the resources to address the spill, and requested that EPA conduct a removal evaluation. EPA mobilized to the site on September 10, 2001 and initiated removal activities.

A cap had been removed from the valve of one tank, allowing approximately 500 gallons of oil to leak out and flow toward the lake. This tank is only partially full, and is estimated to have several hundred or a few thousand gallons of oil remaining inside it. The other tank has an estimated capacity of 5000 gallons and is completely full. This full tank has rusted out completely on top, and some oil has flowed down the outside of the tank. It is vulnerable to further releases as the tank continues to deteriorate.

The landowner could not immediately be identified, due to confusion regarding the legal boundaries of the land parcel containing the tanks. One party who may own the land has stepped forward, indicating that he will assume control of the cleanup.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation

EPA has temporarily stabilized the leaking tank. EPA will now turn the remaining cleanup over to the potential landowner, pursuant to a field order. UDEQ will assist EPA with oversight of the landowner's cleanup activities.

2. Removal Actions to Date

EPA has built a berm of soil around the leaking tank, and scooped up some of the oil-soaked soils and temporarily stored them in rolloff containers.

3. Enforcement

UDEQ and EPA have been conducting research to identify the landowner where the tanks are located. A potential landowner has volunteered to take over the cleanup. EPA will issue a field order to this landowner to specify the actions required for cleanup. EPA and UDEQ will continue research efforts to determine if this landowner is indeed the responsible party.

B. Planned Removal Action

The oil-soaked soils and free product will be removed from the ground surface. The oil in both tanks will be removed.

C. Key Issues

There are no key issues identified at this time.

V. COST INFORMATION

EPA opened the fund to respond to the release as follows:

9-7-01 Opened fund for \$50,000